CLAIMS

1.   A soft proofing system comprising:

a first computer that specifies one or more viewing conditions of an image; and

5   a viewing station that displays the image subject to the viewing conditions.

2.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information indicating a required calibration state of a display device associated with the viewing station.

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3.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information that specify a maximum amount of time since a display device at the viewing station was last calibrated.

15   4.   The system of claim 3, wherein the viewing station automatically prompts a user to calibrate the display device when the display device has not been calibrated within the maximum amount of time.

5.   The system of claim 3, wherein the calibration information causes the viewing

20   station to automatically prompt a user to calibrate the display device in order to view the image.

6.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing conditions comprise warm-up information that cause the viewing station to restrict display of the image when a display

25   device of the viewing station has not been turned on for an amount of time.

7.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing conditions include information specifying one or more sharpening techniques to be applied at the viewing station.
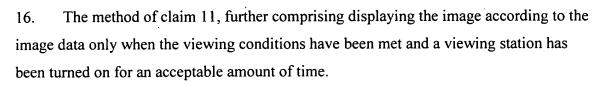
8.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing station displays the image by converting image data from a first coordinate system to a second coordinate system and driving a display device according to the converted image data.

9.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing station does not permit modification of the viewing conditions.

10.   The system of claim 1, wherein the viewing station displays a notification in the event any of the viewing conditions are modified by a user at the viewing station.

11.   A method comprising:

receiving image data and viewing conditions; and

restricting display of an image according to the image data when the viewing conditions are not satisfied.

12.   The method of claim 11, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information indicating a required calibration state of a display device associated with a viewing station.

13.   The method of claim 11, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information that specify a maximum amount of time since a display device at the viewing station was last calibrated.

14.   The method of claim 13, further comprising prompting a user to calibrate the display device when the display device has not been calibrated within the maximum amount of time.

15.   The method of claim 12, further comprising prior to displaying the image, prompting a user to calibrate a display device at the viewing station in order to view the image.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising displaying the image according to the image data only when the viewing conditions have been met and a viewing station has been turned on for an acceptable amount of time.

5 17. The method of claim 11, wherein the viewing conditions comprise warm-up information that specifies an amount of time, the method further comprising displaying the image according to the image data only when a display device at a viewing station has been turned on for the amount of time.

10 18. The method of claim 11, wherein displaying the image according to the image data comprises converting the image data from a first coordinate system to a second coordinate system and driving a display device according to the converted image data.

19. A method comprising:

15 specifying viewing conditions for an image; and

sending the image and the viewing conditions to a viewing station, wherein the viewing station displays the image subject to the viewing conditions.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising limiting access to the viewing

20 conditions such that a user at the viewing station cannot change the viewing conditions.

21. A computer readable medium carrying program code that when executed:

receives an image and viewing conditions for the image; and

restricts display of the image when the viewing conditions are not satisfied.

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22. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information that specifies an amount of time, wherein the program code when executed restricts display of the image unless a display device at a viewing station has been calibrated within the amount of time.

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23. The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the program code when executed prompts a user to calibrate the display device at the viewing station when the display device has not been calibrated within the amount of time.

5 24. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein prior to displaying the image, the program code when executed prompts a user to calibrate a display device at a viewing station in order to view the image.

25. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the program code when
10 executed restricts display of the image when a display device of a viewing station has not been turned on for an acceptable amount of time.

26. The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the program code when executed displays the image by converting image data from a first coordinate system to a
15 second coordinate system and driving a display device according to the converted image data.

27. A computer readable medium carrying program code that when executed:
   receives input specifying viewing conditions for an image; and
20 sends the image and the viewing conditions to a viewing station, wherein the viewing station restricts display of the image unless the viewing conditions are satisfied.

28. The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the program code when executed limits access to the viewing conditions such that a user at the viewing station
25 cannot change the viewing conditions.

29. The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information indicating a required calibration state of a display device associated with the viewing station.

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30.   The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the viewing conditions comprise warm-up information indicating a required amount of time that a display device associated with the viewing station must be turned on.

5   31.   The computer readable medium of claim 27, wherein the viewing conditions include information specifying one or more sharpening techniques to be applied at the viewing station.

32.   A computer readable medium storing an image file that includes image data and

10   viewing conditions, wherein access to the image data at a viewing station is restricted by the image file when the viewing conditions have not been met.

33.   The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information indicating a required calibration state of a display

15   device associated with the viewing station.

34.   The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the viewing conditions comprise warm-up information indicating a required amount of time that a display device associated with the viewing station must be turned on.

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35.   The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the viewing conditions include information specifying one or more sharpening techniques to be applied at the viewing station.

25   36.   The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein the image file includes enabling data that can enable and disable the viewing conditions, wherein access to the image data at the viewing station is restricted by the image file when the viewing conditions have not been satisfied and the enabling data enables the viewing conditions, and wherein access to the image data is not restricted at the viewing station when the

30   enabling data disables the viewing conditions.

37. The computer readable medium of claim 32, wherein access to the viewing conditions within the image file is restricted such that only an administrator can change the viewing conditions.

5 38. A method comprising:

determining an amount of time that a display device has been turned on; and

restricting viewing of an image when the display device has not been turned on for an acceptable amount of time.

10 39. The method of claim 38, further comprising informing a user when the image can be viewed.

40. The method of claim 38, further comprising launching a calibration procedure only after the display device has been turned on for the acceptable amount of time.

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41. A method comprising:

determining an amount of time that a display device has been turned on; and

restricting a calibration procedure for the display device when the display device has not been turned on for an acceptable amount of time.

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42. The method of claim 41, further comprising restricting viewing of an image when the display device has not been turned on for the acceptable amount of time.

43. A computer readable medium carrying program code that when executed:

25 determines an amount of time that a display device has been turned on; and

restricts viewing of an image when the display device has not been turned on for an acceptable amount of time.

44. A computer readable medium carrying program code that when executed:

30 determines an amount of time that a display device has been turned on; and

restricts a calibration procedure for the display device when the display device has not been turned on for an acceptable amount of time.

45.   A method comprising:

        receiving an image at a viewing station; and

        restricting an ability of a user to proof the image at the viewing station when viewing conditions have not been satisfied at the viewing station.

46.   The method of claim 45, wherein restricting comprises restricting viewing of the image.

47.   The method of claim 45, wherein restricting comprises restricting an ability to annotate the image.

48.   The method of claim 45, wherein the viewing conditions comprise calibration information indicating a required calibration state of a display device associated with the viewing station.

49.   The method of claim 45, wherein the viewing conditions comprise warm-up information indicating a required amount of time that a display device associated with the viewing station must be turned on.

50.   The method of claim 45, wherein the viewing conditions include information specifying one or more sharpening techniques to be applied at the viewing station.

51.   A method comprising:

        receiving an image at a viewing station; and

        displaying the image with conspicuous marking indicating that the image is not verified when viewing conditions have not been satisfied at the viewing station.

52.   The method of claim 51, further comprising displaying the image with annotations, wherein the annotations are conspicuously marked as being added during non-verified viewing.

5   53.   A computer readable medium storing a folder of images and meta data file associated with the folder, wherein the meta data file includes viewing conditions for all images in the folder.

54.   A soft proofing system comprising:

10   a first computer that specifies one or more viewing conditions of a set of images image in a folder by setting the viewing conditions in a meta data file associated with the folder; and

a viewing station that displays one or more of the images subject to the viewing conditions.

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